

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-11 AID-05

OPR-02 A-01 SCCT-01 SAJ-01 SY-05 /091 W

----- 028845

O 161047Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SSECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9032

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2332

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. VARIETY OF MILITARY THREATS YESTERDAY APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY CHECKED THROUGH BACKSTAGE SYRIAN EFFORTS. UNLESS THEY ARE PART OF A BIG FATAH/LEFT WIN HOAX, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT REPORTS WE WERE RECEIVING YESTERDAY OF QUIET MOVEMENT SOME SYRIAN TROOPS INTO PARTS OF LEBANON ARE TRUE. WE ARE ASSUMING THEY ARE THERE TO BACK UP PLA AND SAIQA STRENGTH AS NEEDED IN REESTABLISHING ORDER (AND MAY BE DISGUIISING THEMSELVES AS SAIQA OR PLA). LARGE PART OF LEBANESE ARMY SEEMS REUNITED SINCE YESTERDAY UNDER HIGH COMMAND, AHDAB AND KHATIB, THE REUNIFICATION HAVING BEEN ENGINEERED BY JUMLATT (AND PROBABLY FATAH). PRIMARILY WHILE
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THERE WERE CLASHES AMONG RIGHT AND LEFT MILITIAS IN

TRADITIONAL AIN RUMMANEH AND CHIYAH AREAS AS WELL AS
SNIPING IN A FEW OTHER PARTS OF TOWN SUCH AS HOTEL DIS-
TRICT AND KANTARI, LEVEL OF THAT KIND OF FIGHTING HAS NOT
YET REACHED BAD DAYS IN WINTER.

2. CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE COMMITTEE LAHOUD JUST
TOLD EMBOFF THAT SYRIAN MEDIATION TEAM (PROBABLY HEADED
BY KHADDAM) WILL BE RETURNING TO BEIRUT TODAY OR TOMORROW.
THIS APPEARS TO HAVE SLACKENED YESTERDAY'S FEVERISH POLITICAL
ACTIVITY WHICH AIMED AT (A) AT PROVIDING GRACEFUL AND EFFECTIVE
MEANS OF FRANGIE DEPARTURE AND (B) SELECTING HIS SUCCESSOR.
VARIETY OF FORMULAE BEING CONSIDERED. PIERRE HELOU HAS
BEEN MOVED TO MORE PROMINENT POSITION ON LIST OF
PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITIES BY JUMBLATT, ALTHOUGH
SARKIS AND EDDE STILL SEEM TO US TO BE THE FRONT RUNNERS,
WITH CHAMOUN SORT OF A "FAVORITE SON" OF RIGHT WING FOR
BARGAINING PURPOSES.

3. THERE WERE RUMORS THAT ASAD CANCELLATION OF TRIP TO
PARIS WAS BASED ON FEARS OF INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES IN SYRIA
AS MUCH AS LEBANESE PROBLEM, BUT WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING
TO SUBSTANTIATE THESE RUMORS.

4. EMBASSY SECURITY IS GOOD, SNIPER IS NOT SHOOTING IN
EMBASSY DIRECTION FOR THE MOST PART TODAY AND TANK
NEARBY HAS FALLEN SILENT. KHATIB TROOPS GUARDING THE
EMBASSY WERE APPARENTLY PROVIDED AFTER INTERCESSION
OF FATAH/PLO WITH KHATIB. FATAH ITSELF WAS CONTACTED
BY RAYMOND EDDE AFTER HE OFFERED US HIS HELP IN IMPROVING
EMBASSY SECURITY YESTERDAY. WE GATHER FATAH/PLO WANTS TO BE
SURE THERE ARE NO ACCIDENTAL INCIDENTS THREATENING EMBASSY
SECURITY.
LAMBRAKIS

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